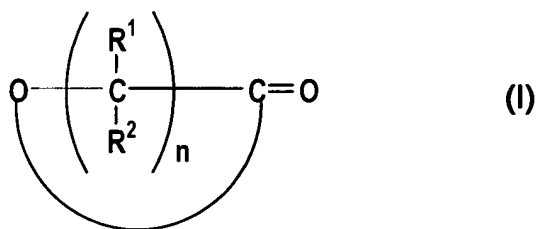


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A process for producing a curing agent for a polyurethane paint, which comprises allowing an aliphatic or alicyclic diisocyanate to react with a polyester polyol having at least two active hydrogen groups in a molecule thereof in an NCO/OH equivalent ratio of 5 to 20, and removing an unreacted aliphatic or alicyclic diisocyanate, wherein the polyester polyol is a copolymerized lactone polyol obtained by a ring-opening copolymerization of at least two members of cyclic lactone compounds each represented by the following formula (I) in the presence of a low molecular weight compound having at least two active hydrogen groups as an initiator



wherein R¹ and R² may be the same or different, each representing a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄alkyl group, and 3 ≤ n ≤ 7.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the cyclic lactone compounds represented by the formula (I) comprise ε-caprolactone and δ-valerolactone, and the molar ratio of the ε-caprolactone relative to the δ-valerolactone being 80/20 to 20/80.

3. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the number average molecular weight of the copolymerized lactone polyol is 500 to 3000.

4. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-~~to~~3, wherein the initiator comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol,

diethylene glycol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, neopentyl glycol, glycerin, trimethylolpropane, triethanolamine, and pentaerythritol.

5. (Currently amended) A curing agent for a polyurethane paint obtainable by a production process recited in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 4.